

## LEADERS OF BOTH SIDES CONFER AS BIG FOUR DIRECTS SHOP STRIKE; TRAIN DESERTION INQUIRY ORDERED

**GO TO WHITE HOUSE**

## Shopmen Have Left Case in Our Hands, Leader of Conductors Says.

Brotherhood Committee to  
Stay in Washington  
Awaiting Reply.

NIGHT MEETING HELD

**Rail Executives and Union Organizations Enter Into a Secret Session.**

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*Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD*  
**New York Herald Bureau.**

President William D. Davis, A. G. C. E., brought about a quick ending of the railroad strike resulted in a secret conference to-night in the New Willard Hotel between railroad executives and railroad labor leaders to reach a compromise, following the presentation by both sides of their cases to the President during the afternoon.

In the hotel conference were said to be Secretary of Labor Davis, George Christian, the President's secretary, President Sheppard of the Conductors' Brotherhood and President W. N. Doak of the trainmen's brotherhood.

The conference to-night lasted three hours. Both sides are declared to have shown an amicable attitude. The railroad executives have an appointment

In the afternoon the Big Four brothers and six of the other major unions stepped into the breach in the role of mediators in the controversy at the same time making an announcement that striking shop craft had let their case temporarily in the hands of

the powerful railroad brotherhood. They conferred with the President so four hours.

Although the President had in his hands the answer of the executives as well as the answer of the shop craft unions to his latest proffer for a settlement, comment from the White House was withheld, the answer of each group being kept secret pending further efforts over Sunday to get some degree of rapprochement between the warring factions.

**Silence Is Maintained.**

T. De Witt Cuyler, chairman of the railway executives, refused to comment on the situation beyond announcing that the executives would stay over to discuss the situation in further conferences to-morrow and perhaps on Monday.

The only statement forthcoming was that from spokesmen of the Big Four and affiliated unions, this statement

taking the form of an announcement that they had taken charge of the shopmen's cause and had offered to become conciliators in the controversy. The execution of this maneuver had been expected. It was easily regarded as the pivotal element to-night.

This turn in the situation impelled two things: First, that the Big Four are making an effort to mediate the seniority question and, second, that there has been developed a degree of skepticism in the labor ranks.

It was indicated that the latest proposal for a settlement would be declined. Instead of the shopmen's representatives going to the White House

The brotherhoods will appoint a committee of five to remain in Washington to cooperate with President Harding in getting the shopmen and executives to agree on some compromise for a settlement. Such a compromise was put forward by the president.

ward by the representatives of the brotherhoods at the conference to-day. Their statement as well as the attitude of the striking women was held pending further discussion on our part.

At the same time the President received the reply of the American Association of Railroad Executives through a committee of presidents of roads appointed to bring to the chief executive the answer to his latest peace proffer.

"I have been very glad to hear the President," said President Sheppard of the Order of Railway Conductors, "and told him that we were ready to act as mediators in the situation. We sub-

temporarily in our hands. The entire